**DRYING UP OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**The Problem Then... The Romans were mining all their resources and over hunting animals, depleting their natural resources.**

The ancient Romans had to expand their empire because they were running out of resources such as wood, coal, and precious metals. Almost 11,000 wild animals were killed in the gladiator games, causing many species to be driven to extinction. The Ancient Romans also exhausted their mines of all resources, forcing them to conquer other territories to obtain resources. Ancient Romans deforested the land for building material and charcoal, causing there to be not many trees left for the forest to grow new trees. The Romans needed to feed the growing population of Rome and so they fought the Punic Wars with Carthage for land to grow wheat for bread. Rome began conquering different territories, they would get that place's natural resources. They obtained tin from England, silver from Spain, cotton from the Egyptians, and wood from conquering Germany. Silver was becoming harder to find, and since the Roman coins (denarii) were made of silver, the Romans had to start mixing tin in with the silver. The coins became less valuable, causing inflation. Because of the Romans cutting down all the trees, the topsoil washed away, causing the soil to become unfertilized and bad for farming.

**The Problem and Solutions Now... The amount of natural resources in America has decreased a lot in the past few years due to overuse.**

The United States had an abundance of forests, water, topsoil, minerals, oil, coal, and natural gas, but that is slowly running out. Solution: The United States government could try to import some resources of each kind listed above and collect the rest of them here in the U.S.  
 Deforestation is becoming a big problem because too many trees are being cut down, causing there to be less and less trees for future timber. Solution: For every one tree cut down, logging companies can plant two or three more trees to replace the one that they cut down.  
 One of the biggest problems concerning natural resources is the decrease in the worlds fresh water. Some of the people in Africa have very little fresh water to drink. Solution: Water can be conserved many ways, such as recycling waste water, collecting rainwater, and improving agricultural and industrial use of water.  
 Another problem today is overfishing. Overfishing makes the fish not have a chance to repopulate before more are caught. Solution: To stop overfishing, fishing companies can fish in many different areas or fish many different kinds of fish so that the fishhave time to repopulate.



**Expert Contact(s)**

**Expert Contact 1: No reply.**

My first (and only) expert contact did not reply to my e-mail. I don’t know why they did not respond, but they didn’t, so I’m not going to question it.